

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Final Office Action dated April 5, 2004, having a shortened statutory period set to expire July 5, 2004.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 9-12 and 20-23 are pending. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 9, 12 and 20 and canceled Claims 7-8 and 18-19. No new matter has been entered by these amendments. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the proposed amendments as they place the application in condition for allowance or in better condition for appeal.

Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. § 103

On page 5 of the present Office Action, claims 1, 7-12 and 18-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Moy* (U.S. Patent Number 5,425,102) in view of *Guthrie et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 6,161,185). That rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration of the claims is requested.

Independent Claims 1, 12 and 23 now recite "*prior to executing said interrogative password method, permitting a user to initially supply said question and correct answer pair.*" The Examiner argues on page 8 of the present Office Action that *Moy* teaches this element of the present invention at col. 4, lines 65-67. However, at the cited section of col. 4, *Moy* merely states:

The password hints are provided by the user upon the initial activation of a password protection system resident on computer system 1. The optimal password a string of alphanumeric characters that cannot be...

While this teaching of *Moy* clearly describes activation of the password protection system where the user provides the "password hints," and further where the user provides the "password," this is taught as being provided during the initial activation of the password protection system. While the optimal password is selected by the user, *Moy* is not teaching that a "question and correct answer pair" is provided prior to the interrogative password method. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that *Moy* in view of *Guthrie* does not show or

suggest the present invention as claimed in the amended pending claims and that the rejection under §103 should be reconsidered.

Respectfully submitted,



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